

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 DHA-02

/091 W

-----104514 081518Z /53

P R 081240Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4510

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 268

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3261

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 1-7

REF: BEIRUT 3124 (DTG 011021Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: SHELLING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS  
CONTINUED IN SOUTH LEBANON ALONG WITH SOME GROUND ACTIVITY  
AND CHRISTIAN FACTIONS CLASHED IN A BEIRUT SUBURB.

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PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL IMPLIED HE WOULD NOT BE  
INTERESTED IN CEASE-FIRE AT PRESENT. LOCAL NEWS DIGEST  
QUOTED DAMASCUS DAILY AL BAATH AS SAYING SYRIAN ARMY MIGHT  
WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. BEIRUT MAGAZINES  
PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT  
CALLING FOR SUMMIT MEETING IN BEIRUT. FOREIGN  
MINISTER BUTROS MET WITH KING KHALID IN RIYADH, AND ARMY

CHIEF OF STAFF VICTOR KHOURY VISITED AMMAN. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PASSED 18 DECREE LAWS ON LAST DAY OF GOVERNMENT'S EMERGENCY POWERS.

2. FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SOUTH

ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES, EXODUS OF CIVILIANS FROM SOUTH LEBANON INCREASED MARKEDLY AS SHELLING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND PALESTINIANS REPEATED PATTERN OF PAST WEEKS AND CONTINUED ON DAILY BASIS. ON JULY 2 CHRISTIANS ATTACKED AND BRIEFLY HELD PALESTINIAN-OCCUPIED VILLAGE OF YARIN, ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF ISRAELI BORDER. PALESTINIANS REGAINED CONTROL OF VILLAGE AND PLATOON SIZED FORCE APPEARS TO BE OCCUPYING IT AT PRESENT. Wafa CHARGED ON JULY 5 THAT ISRAELI PAPERS HAD LAUNCHED "MASSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN" DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATING PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON.

3. FIGHTING IN AYN AL RUMANEH.

NLP AND PHALANGE MILITIA EXCHANGED SMALL ARMS, MACHINE GUN AND ROCKET FIRE IN BEIRUT CHRISTIAN SUBURB OF AYN AL RUMANEH, ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCE (SEE IR 6 857 0061 77). OSTENSIBLE REASON WAS DISPUTE OVER CONTROL OF LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAM, BUT MAIN ISSUE WAS ACTUALLY WHICH FACTION WOULD EXERCISE DOMINANCE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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AREA, SAME SOURCE REPORTED. ARAB SECURITY FORCES INTERVENED TO RESTORE ORDER. THERE WERE SEVERAL BOMBINGS ON JULY 2, BUT CALM RETURNED BY JULY 3. NLP SECRETARY GENERAL DORY CHAMOUN PUBLICLY APOLOGIZED TO RESIDENTS OF AYN AL RUMANEH FOR INCIDENT ON JULY 6.

4. CHRISTIANS NOT INTERESTED IN CEASEFIRE IN SOUTH OR DIALOG WITH PLO

ON JULY 5 PIERRE GEMAYEL REITERATED TO AMBASSADOR VIEW THAT THERE COULD BE NO PEACE IN LEBANON UNTIL PALESTINIANS WERE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. GEMAYEL SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT POSSIBLE WHILE ONE SIDE HELD A GUN, AND THUS SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT PHALANGE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH AT PRESENT TIME (SEPTEL). CAMILLE CHAMOUN, AS QUOTED IN PRESS JULY 7, HAD SARCASTIC COMMENT ABOUT REPORTED EFFORTS BY PLO EMISSARY HANI EL HASSAN TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH KFUR FRONT LEADERS. (STATEMENT BY KFUR FRONT "DIRECTORY" WEEK AGO SAID THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS ON LEBANON'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS UNTIL PALESTINIANS WERE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL).

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ACTION NEA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 MCT-01 DHA-02 /091 W  
-----104777 081517Z /53

P R 081240Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4511  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 269  
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USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3261

5. SYRIANS SIGNAL POSSIBLE ARMY WITHDRAWAL.

ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS DIGEST "MIDDLE EAST  
REPORTER," OFFICIAL SYRIAN PAPER AL BAATH ASSERTED ON  
JUNE 30 THAT "PREVAILING ARAB CONDITIONS REQUIRE THAT  
SYRIAN ARMY SHOULD RETURN FROM LEBANON SO IT MAY RESUME  
ITS BASIC MISSION ON FRONT LINE WITH ZIONIST ENEMY."  
AL BAATH CONTINUED THAT PARTIES IN LEBANON WERE USING  
IMPLEMENTATION OF CAIRO ACCORD "AS AN EXCUSE FOR  
OBSTRUCTING THE SOLUTION OF TWO OTHER QUESTIONS, NAMELY  
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NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND REBUILDING THE ARMY." MIDDLE EAST REPORTER COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE TWO BASIC REASONS FOR AL BAATH EDITORIAL: (A) IN FACT DAMASCUS WANTED TO CONCENTRATE ITS MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ISRAEL IN WAKE OF FORMATION OF LIKUD GOVERNMENT; AND (B) DAMASCUS HOPED TO BRING PRESSURE ON PARTIES IN LEBANON TO RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

6. SADAT INTERVIEW.

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JULY 2 IN LOCAL WEEKLIES "MAGAZINE" AND "AL USBUA AL ARABI", EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO ATTEND SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN LEBANON TO HELP FIND SETTLEMENT TO THE LEBANESE CRISIS. HE SAID SUMMIT SHOULD INCLUDE LEADERS OF SYRIA, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT AS WELL AS PRESIDENT SARKIS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL LEBANESE PARTIES. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAD ONCE SAID HE WOULD NEVER MEET WITH NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN, SADAT SAID HE WOULD DO SO NOW IF IT WOULD FURTHER SECURITY OF LEBANON. SADAT ALSO DECLARED PALESTINIANS WERE GUESTS OF LEBANON UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN STATE. (SEE ALSO CAIRO 11065).

7. BOUTROS RETURNS FROM RIYADH.

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS RETURNED TO BEIRUT ON JULY 6 AFTER MEETING WITH KING KHALID IN RIYADH. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE PRESS, BOUTROS CARRIED BACK A LETTER FROM THE KING WHICH GAVE SAUDI AGREEMENT TO ATTEND A SUMMIT MEETING IN BEIRUT AS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. (BOUTROS VISITED CAIRO JUNE 29-30, AND PLANS TO GO TO KUWAIT AT THE END OF THIS WEEK.)  
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8. OTHER TRAVELLERS.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VICTOR KHOURY VISITED AMMAN JULY 2-6. POPULAR SOCIALIST LEADER WALID JUNBLATT MET WITH COLONEL QADHAFI IN LIBYA ON JUNE 29.

9. LAST MINUTE DECREES.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET FOR OVER 11 HOURS JUNE 30 AND ENACTED 18 DECREE-LAWS BEFORE GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL POWERS ENDED AT MIDNIGHT (SEE JUNE 30 SITREP). AMONG MEASURES PASSED WERE AMENDMENTS TO PRESS AND CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS, AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS FOR LEBANESE UNIVERSITY, APPROVAL OF PLAN FOR BEIRUT CENTER

CITY DRAWN UP BY FRENCH, AND RATIFICATION OF HOUSING  
GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH UNITED STATES. MOST NEWS-  
PAPERS STRONGLY OPPOSED NEW PRESS LAW WHICH  
BROADENS PENALTIES FOR "PRESS CRIMES," SUCH AS  
UNDERMINING LEBANON'S RELATIONS WITH ARAB STATES, AND  
REQUIRES DETAILED ACCOUNTING OF SOURCE OF ALL NEWS-  
PAPER'S REVENUES. NEW REGULATIONS FOR LEBANESE  
UNIVERSITY IN EFFECT PERMIT CONTINUANCE OF  
SEPARATE BRANCHES IN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM SECTORS,  
ACCORDING TO PRO-LIBYAN AS SAFIR.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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